Soldier Support Systems



MISSION

Support the soldier in an operational and tactical environment.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

Airdrop programs support increased strategic payloads, operational flexibility, improved safety, and improved accuracy/reliability of airdrop equipment. The Dual Row Airdrop System (DRAS) enables use of the C-17 dual logistic rails, and significantly reduces the number of C-17s required. The Advanced Tactical Parachute System (ATPS) provides a superior mass-tactical assault parachute system, reducing the rate of descent, and parachute landing injuries.

Shelter programs support maintenance facilities (ground vehicles/aircraft), tactical billeting, command and control operations, storage, and medical treatment facilities. Examples include: the family of cargo bed covers (CBC), lightweight maintenance enclosure (LME) and the modular general purpose tent system (MGPTS). CBCs provide a securable, low-cost, lightweight protective storage enclosure, compatible with a variety of tactical wheeled vehicles/trailers. The LME is a lightweight, quick set-up/strike shelter assembly enabling field units to conduct tactical vehicle maintenance operations in all conditions. The MGPTS is a modular, pole-supported tent, that can be extended in 18-foot increments by adding standard fabric modules.

Field feeding/field service programs provide essential life support to soldiers in austere field environments Examples include: the containerized kitchen (CK), advanced food sanitation center (AFSC), modern burner unit (MBU), laundry advanced system (LADS), and new family of space heaters (FOSH). The CK provides a flexible, rapidly deployable, efficient, field kitchen capable of supporting up to 550 soldiers with three hot meals/day. The AFSC provides improved safety and efficiency/effectiveness in field food sanitation. The LADS replaces all field service company M-85 field laundry systems on a one-for-four basis.

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

France: SERT trailer-mounted field kitchens; Germany: Karcher containerized field kitchen and vaporizing diesel burner.

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

4QFY99 Approved LME for full material release.

1QFY00 Conducted DRAS component testing. MGPTS type-classified standard, full materiel-released. Completed CBC production verification testing. Fielded FOSH–space heater arctic. **2QFY00** CK initial operational test and evaluation testing.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

2QFY00-4QFY05 LADS fielding.

3QFY00 CS initial fielding.Complete AFSC production qualification testing. Award ATPS R&D contract.

4QFY00 Space heater convective to be fielded.

1QFY01 First unit equipped with CKs. Milestone III, type-classification for CBC Types III and IV. Milestone III, full-rate production decision for LME.

2QFY01 Initiate AFSC production.Complete DRAS developmental testing. Conduct market investigations for ECDS and 500 ft LVADS.

3QFY01 Complete testing and evaluation of MGPTS P3I items.

4QFY01 Conduct ATPS design validation testing.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

Simula (Phoenix, AZ); Plastics Research Corporation (Santa Fe Springs, CA); Rock Island Arsenal (Rock Island, IL); Aspen Systems (Marlboro, MA); SFA Frederick Manufacturing (Frederick, MD); Engineered Air Systems (St. Louis, MO); Eureka! (Binghamton, NY); Hunter Manufacturing (Solon, OH); Tobyhanna Army Depot (Scranton, PA); Marion Composites (Marion, VA); Camel Manufacturing Company (Caryville, TN); Irvin Industries (Hope Mills, NC); Guild Associates (Dublin, OH)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors

